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Testimony by Representative Pam Sawyer
Government Administration & Elections Committee
Senate Bill 772
February 2, 2009 10:00 Room 2B

RE: In Support - with recommendations

Good morning Chairmen Slossberg and Spallone, Ranking Members McLachlan and Hetherington, and members of the Government Administration & Elections Committee. For the record, I am Representative Pam Sawyer, representing the 55th District. I am here today to speak in favor of **Senate Bill 772 AAC The Freedom Of Information Act**.

This proposal would provide an opportunity for the Freedom of Information Commission to consider requests from municipalities that demonstrate a hardship for not being able to post minutes of local meetings within seven days on their website. The provisions of **Public Act 08-3** adopted in the 2008 June Special Session have placed a burden on the small towns in my district that do not have the resources to post this information in such a short timeframe. You will hear one typical hardship story from the town of Andover today.

It is essential that towns who have stated their case before the FOI Commission as being unable to post minutes within the one week time frame:

- 1. Receive a response from the Commission on their status in a very short turnaround time, and**
- 2. Be granted a permanent waiver from the mandate until such time as the town hires a webmaster (or shares one regionally) and can thus be in compliance.**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on **SB 772** and I ask the Committee to act favorably on this bill.